THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Women's Franchise in Canada.

Sir Robert Borden, in a letter to a correspondent at Vancouver, has announced his intention of placing upon the Statute-book a measure granting the franchise to all women of British birth, and conferring upon all women of foreign birth the right to seek and obtain naturalisation, so that they may thus become endowed with the same privilege after suitable residence in the country, and, perhaps, after suitable educational tests.

The same measure, he considers, should provide that a woman of British citizenship shall not lose her citizenship upon marriage, except with her own consent.

The Senate has already passed the third reading of the War-time Election Franchise Bill, which enfranchises the wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of fighting men.

A Nurse Elected to the Alberta Parliament.

The result of the election among the Canadian soldiers and nurses in England and France for two members of the Alberta Parliament was announced last week, the voting and counting having taken about a month. Out of twenty candidates, the two who were successful were Captain R. Pearson, who polled 4,286 votes, and Sister Robert Macadams, of the Canadian Military Nursing Service, with 4,023 votes, about one-third of the total number polled.

Sister Macadams thus becomes the second woman legislator in Canada.

At the present time she is stationed at the Canadian Hospital at Orpington, and she does not yet know whether she will return to Alberta for the next session of Parliament, which will probably open in February, to take care of the oversea electors' claims, or whether she will keep in touch with them here. Her constituents are scattered over the greater part of the firing-line. The request that Sister Macadams should stand for election came to her absolutely unsought from some Alberta citizens who had known her work at home. She considers that her election is a vote of confidence in the Canadian Army Corps, as many did not vote for her personally, but voted for "the Sister." Like all Canadian Sisters, Miss Macadams holds the rank of lieutenant. The Matron ranks as captain, and the Matron-in-Chief as major, and they are paid the same as men of equal rank—an arrangement which might be copied with advantage in our own Military Nursing Service.

A similar election is shortly to be held for overseas representatives in the Saskatchewan Legislature.

Mothers' Pensions.

The exact wording of the resolution passed by the Trade Union Congress on the subject of mothers' pensions was as follows:—

This meeting warmly supports the principle underlying the scheme for mothers' pensions now in operation in thirty of the United States of North America, which recognises the valued services rendered to the community by mothers who tend and cherish their children in the home.

It urges that a scheme on similar lines be established in this country, so that no mother who worthily discharges this great service should be brought under the operation of the Poor Law or prevented by economic stress from discharging it adequately and well."

It was moved by Mr. Walker, of the Agricultural Labourers' Union, seconded by Mr. Robert Smillie, and carried unanimously.

The American scheme to which this resolution alludes, is that initiated by Judge Neil, and described by Miss Royden in our issue of June 29th. Judge Neil's pensions, however, are only for widows, and though the principle of recognising the services of mothers to the community may be said to underlie it, it does not carry that principle into effect as fully as an all-round scheme of maternity endowment. We are publishing some articles on different aspects of this controversial and deeply interesting subject, and we shall be glad to know, and so far as space allows to publish, the opinions of our readers about it. It is one of the questions about which every woman citizen ought to be thinking.

Maternity Allowances in Australia.

In an article in *Maternity and Child Welfare* for August, Judge Neil gives some interesting particulars about maternity allowances in Australia. The Commonwealth of Australia gives a sum of £5 to every woman inhabitant of Australia who bears a child that is living and likely to live. The money is paid to the mother.

The Act which initiated the grant was introduced into the Federal Parliament by the then Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher, now High Commissioner for Australia in this country. It met with considerable opposition, but more support. Since it has been in operation, claims have been paid as follows:—In 1913, 83,475 claims, amounting to £412,375. In 1914, 134,998 claims, amounting to £674,990. In 1915, 138,855, amounting to £694,275. In 1916, 131,943 claims, amounting to £659,715. The cost of administration is about 1⅞ per cent. The grant is available for all classes of the population.

Babies and the Milk Supply.

For many different reasons the lives of babies are now regarded by all sections of the community as more precious than they ever were before. Probably in no year that has ever passed has there been so much talk about infant welfare.

But we are told that the price of milk is to be eightpence a quart during the winter months, and this means that thousands of babies will be wholly or partially deprived of the chief necessity of an infant's life. Instead of getting fresh milk, they will get cheap and sometimes deleterious substitutes—much suffering and loss of life is likely to result. It is urgent that something should be done to prevent this, and there is much to be said for a large scheme of free distribution of milk worked as part of a national scheme of child welfare under a Ministry of Health.

Women on Food Control Committees.

At the present time many more heads of households are women than in days of peace; almost all housekeepers and domestic cooks are women. Food economy appeals are constantly addressed to women. Yet women are still extremely inadequately represented on the Food Control Committees. At the last meeting of the Women's Interests' Committee of the N.U.W.S.S., it was resolved that a letter should be sent to the Food Controller drawing his attention to this matter, and suggesting that in order to allow for a more adequate representation of women, the membership of the Committees should be increased from twelve to fourteen.

Demobilisation Plans.

The announcement of Mr. Roberts, Minister of Labour, that soldiers will be given a month's full pay and allowances on their discharge after the war, has brought relief to many anxious households.

His plans for the release of munition workers are not so complete as those for the demobilisation of the Army, which he is drawing up in conjunction with the War Office, but care will be taken to arrange contracts so that large numbers in any given industry shall not be dismissed at one time. Mr. Roberts calculates that about 2,500,000 men and 1,000,000 women will be entitled to at least 10s. a week unemployment insurance, while another 1,000,000 men and 250,000 women will be entitled to benefit from trade-union funds.

The Government's Women Clerks.

We understand that the Government is taking steps to safeguard its various departments against a general exodus of women clerks as soon as peace is declared, and to protect the future of the women clerks who will ultimately be replaced by men clerks. Women clerks are being asked to sign agreements that they will not leave their employment for at least four months after peace is signed, and every clerk who agrees to do this will be entitled to a supplementary bonus when she leaves of between 10s. and £1 for every month of service. It is estimated that the average clerk on leaving will be entitled to quite £20 if she signs this agreement. While this sum will be very useful to tide over a period of unemployment, it must be remembered that it may possibly be much more difficult to get work four months after the war than when peace is first declared.

Encouraging Emigration.

As the future of women clerks is very uncertain, and many may find no opening in commercial employment, the Government are considering a scheme for encouraging emigration to the Overseas Dominions. They are also, we understand, intending to insist upon the attendance at evening continuation schools of girls under sixteen employed in State departments. These will be discouraged from learning shorthand and typing, and taught especially subjects that will fit them for life overseas.

At the very beginning of the war we urged that educational facilities should be given to girl messengers in State departments, as they used to be for boy messengers; but the Government at that time declined to make such provision.

Now there seems a danger that the classes may be organised on too narrow lines. It is an excellent thing that the Government should be prepared to assist women and girls who desire to emigrate. But no pressure should be brought to bear upon girls to train for emigration if they prefer to take their chances here. There is urgent need for a general enquiry before the war is over to ascertain what trades are likely to require workers, so that a really well-thought-out scheme of training may be started for women and girls employed in war-time occupations. For drawing up such a scheme, and considering other problems connected with the demobilisation of women, it seems necessary to have a special committee mainly composed of women.

Children and the Labour Market.

Speaking in Manchester on Tuesday on his new Education Bill, Mr. Fisher made it clear that he intends to remain firm with regard to his proposals for abolishing half-time work for children under fourteen, and providing compulsory day continuation classes for children up to sixteen. It appeared to him, he said, that it was proved beyond all reasonable doubt that, in spite of all consideration which employers showed in the management of their mills, the result of half-time work was bad for the education and physique of the 30,000 children so employed. The labour of the children must be replaced from other sources. He thought employers could rely, in the first place, on a considerable transfer of young people from casual and blind alley employments to regular employments, such as the textile industry. Then, as women and girls were released from munition works, they would become available in the general market.

It is to hoped, however, that if girls over sixteen are to take the places in mills of children under that age, they will be paid at more than a child's wage, and that the gradual abolition of child labour will tend to raise wages all round.

Women Motor Tractor Drivers.

The Board of Agriculture has made arrangements for training women drivers at a special school in Buckinghamshire, and in various agricultural colleges, to drive motor-tractors. The training will cover a period of six weeks, and will include instruction in general farm work as well as motor mechanics.

A number of motor-tractors will soon be available for speeding up our food production, and it has been proved that women can manage the lighter machines quite well. Indeed, those who have already had experience in motor driving may find this work much easier than driving heavy commercial vehicles or motor-ambulances, and there will be no difficulties with traffic. After training, the women will be hired out with their tractors to the farmers, who must apply to the tractor representative in each county. They will be paid a weekly wage of 30s., with a bonus of 1s. for every acre ploughed. When the weather makes the use of tractors impossible drivers will be expected to help the farmers with other farm work if required. Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Women's Branch, Food Production Department, Board of Agriculture.

Housing of Women Farm Workers.

In America there seems to be the same difficulty in persuading farmers to give a trial to women land workers that has been experienced in this country. One reason that has caused farmers to hang back is the fear that they could not house and cater for these workers properly, and the Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defence of New York has formed a plan for meeting this difficulty. The idea is that a unit of women workers shall live in a community, under a captain or superviser, with a system of co-operative housekeeping, and go out from this centre in squads to work on neighbouring farms. This relieves the farmer's wife of the burden of feeding extra labourers, and at the same time insures good conditions for the workers. It is found that though it was impossible to persuade women to go and help cook in a farmer's family, it is easy enough to get women as cooks to these units, and take full charge of the catering.

An arrangement of this kind might greatly facilitate the employment of women on the land in this country, if huts could be erected or houses found for the accommodation of a unit. Cases are not infrequent in which the accommodation offered to women land-workers is quite unsuitable, and even when a comfortable cottage has been given up to them they often have to cook their own food when they come in tired and hungry after a long day's work.

England and Poland.

The sympathy between England and Poland is of very old date. It is as old as the misfortunes of Poland, which, alas! began so many years ago. In this time of anguish for many nations, it is possible that they have been a little overshadowed. If so, it is well that we should be reminded that even in this war Poland has had to endure very special sufferings. She requires our sympathy more than ever, and her future is more important than ever to the future of Europe. The Polish Information Committee at 110, St. Martin's-lane offer lectures by eminent Poles or by natives of Great Britain possessing intimate knowledge of Poland. On the Advisory Council are: Mr. Annan Bryce, M.P., Lord Eversley, Mr. Henry Gooch, Mr. Joynson Hicks, M.P., Mr. R. J. Kelly, K.C., Dr. James Mackinnon, Mr. Massingham, Professor Holland Rose, Mr. Seton-Watson, Professor Urquhart, and Mr. A. F. Whyte, M.P. The names speak for themselves.

The N.U.W.S.S. Delegates to the National Council of Women.

The N.U.W.S.S. delegates to the N.U.W.W. Council on October 3rd, 4th, and 5th will be Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, N.U.W.S.S.), Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Miss B. A. Clough, Miss I. B. O'Malley, Miss Mary Lowndes, Mrs. Thoday, Miss Helen Ward, Mrs. Simmonds, and Miss Boldero. These delegates were duly nominated and elected by the Societies of the Union.

Chemistry as a Profession for Women.

I.—Industrial Chemistry.

Many persons outside the scientific world must have been impressed during the past year by the number and variety of the demands for scientific chemists which have appeared in the columns of the press. Those in touch with works carrying on a business of which analytical or research chemistry is an essential part know only too well the other aspect of this increased demand —the difficulty or impossibility of filling any vacancy on their scientific staff. Munition and other Government works have themselves felt the strain, and have been obliged to resort to unusual methods of recruitment—among others, that of depleting the already depleted teaching staffs of the schools—and even so, the demand for the trained chemist is very great. Women, who have been ready to fill the gaps in so many other professions, have not been available in any large number for this emergency, for a chemist cannot be trained in a few weeks or months, and the number of women already trained is relatively very small.

The reasons for this are no doubt complex, but the principal cause is not far to seek. Chemistry has held out few inducements to women in the past; school teaching has been, with a few exceptions, the one career open to them; chemistry has not been an important subject in most girls' schools, and opportunities for research have been lacking. Women have seldom been appointed to those posts which afford sufficient leisure for original work, and which have given opportunities for many of the more important researches done in this country. The older women chemists have therefore found their aspirations unfulfilled, and the younger generation of professional women have taken warning.

At the present time there is a general opinion that scientific research is about to receive a considerable stimulus and that its scope will be much enlarged. This is more especially the case in respect to applied science. The war has brought home to the country at large the value of science, not only as a destructive agent of incalculable power, but also as an agent for the betterment of human life. The work of medical science has taken hold of the public imagination, and the public mind has realised the possibilities of scientific research in this field; it is beginnng to apprehend dimly that there are possibilities in other fields hitherto untrodden, and that the methods of science can be applied, not only where destructive and reconstructive forces are at work, but to the whole system of production, to manufacturing industry and to agriculture.

Industrial chemistry is a science which has suffered much from neglect in the past, and which seems likely to expand very rapidly in the near future, and the object of the present paper is to discuss how far women may hope to take part in this expansion. There can be little doubt that a number of women will be employed in routine chemical processes, but whether they will take any considerable part in more important work, and more especially in industrial research, is far from certain, for women are showing no signs of preparing themselves for the opportunity ahead; yet it is an opportunity that should prove attractive.

The difficulties which women experience in undertaking chemical research have already been mentioned. For the sake of those to whom work of this kind in some corner of the scientific field makes its especial appeal, the opportunity which Industrial Chemistry seems likely to afford should not be lost. That genuine and truly scientific work can be done in connection with industry no one can doubt who is acquainted with the facts. Science was born of material needs, and bred in close relation with their supply. Nature cannot be pigeon-holed, and while the most academic discoveries have a tendency to bear fruit in the industrial field, the contact with industrial problems is constantly widening and deepening the outlook of academic science. The life of Pasteur is the standing witness, if such be needed, that industrial science will repay the use of the loftiest scientific imagination, and that science in its most abstract and academic form is a sharer in the result.

But work of this kind needs the best brains of the country, and if women wish to take their part in it they must not shrink from a thorough preliminary training. Scientific research can in no case be an easy matter, and technical research has difficulties all its own. Raw materials are more complex substances than those usually handled by the chemist, and the problems of industry have a tendency to congregate on the borderland of two or three sciences, and to require special knowledge of each. At the same time, commercial possibilities must not be lost sight of, and, last but not least, when a new system is on its trial, a sympathetic understanding of men as well as of things is a potent factor of success. A wide method and a thorough professional training are needed if the possibilities of the career are to be fully realised. The preparation must be on the lines followed by all the liberal professions—a good general education, followed by an honours course, and, if possible, some experience of post-graduate research. No training can give imagination or that insight which distinguishes the true research worker, but these can be developed where they exist, and training can do much in developing the no less necessary attributes of self-confidence and initiative. It may not, perhaps, be out of place to put in a plea here for the training of school girls in the minor mechanical arts; practically every woman student in a laboratory finds herself at a disadvantage whenever the use of tools is required.

These considerations are offered to those who are about to begin their training. A new and important field of work for women is in the balance. Possibilities which exist to-day may be closed to future generations of women if they do not take the chance that is offered now.

It may be objected that it is vain to invite women to train for what is in effect a speculative career. The answer to this is twofold. In the first place, the war has forced the door, and women chemists are being employed in industry so far as they are available, so that, to some extent, the profession is already open to them. The second consideration is, however, more important. Granted that an element of speculation exists —and this can hardly be denied—it still remains true that the value to women of a scientific education is daily increasing. The higher posts in industry should give them what they have so long wanted—opportunities for research—but no competent woman, even if she is unable to obtain a post of this kind, need feel that her training has been a mistake. A science degree is likely to be a qualification of increasing value in the new world which is to take the place of the old, whether for industry, for education, or for social work.

The importance of the matter does not, however, end with its possibilities to the individual. In the period of reconstruction which is before us, women will have their part to play, as they have had during the disintegrating period of the war. The part which women are to play in one profession may seem a small matter in face of the stupendous economic problems with which we shall be confronted in the near future, but it must be remembered that technical chemistry is a profession which affects an enormous number of industries, and in which there is a vast amount of leeway to be made up. Women must be utilised if this leeway is to be made good and the supply of chemists is to be equal to the demand. It must be remembered, too, that each profession and industry is a unit in the whole economic life of the country, making a definite contribution to its well or ill-being, and having an importance of its own which it is difficult, indeed impossible to gauge, but which cannot in any case be crudely measured by the number of persons engaged in it. Even before the war, we had begun to learn the importance of dealing with the individual as such, and the war has stamped in the lesson in a phrase which it will take the country a long time to forget. Individuals have to "do their bit" if their country is to fare well, and this is not less true of professions and occupations. Few professions can look forward to playing a more important part in their country's future than that of the technical chemist of to-day. It is up to women to have their share in it.

From the woman's point of view, one more consideration may be urged. Women have suffered very much in the past by their exclusion from the main stream of intellectual and practical life, and there is considerable danger that the same thing may happen in some measure to-day, in spite of the wider life that is now open to them. For science is beginning to permeate all departments of life, and the majority of women are still holding aloof from it. No inclusion in the school curriculum can make a living subject of one which is apart from all the interests of life. Any profession which brings women into contact with science—into the main stream of modern thought—must have a value far beyond its own particular achievement—the value which lies in all that tends to break down barriers and to make for unity and the enlargement of life.

Dorothy Haynes.

[*Next week we publish an article on Analytical Chemistry.*]

More about Women's Citizen Associations.

Many people were pleased when the party truce was established, or seemed to be, at the beginning of the war; many hoped that parties would be heard of no more. Many suffragists positively blench at the thought of a woman's party being formed if and when the Reform Bill passes. Yet, call them what you will, parties are alive now, and will flourish apace after the war, and new ones will be born, and, so long as mortals see through a glass darkly, that is as it should be; for, ideally, a party is a group of persons who stress some aspect of truth which, but for them, would be forgotten.

There will be a woman's party. Suffragists seeking votes for women have learnt that their quest was to win not only a tool, but a symbol,—a symbol of something deeper and more real than most of them at first imagined when, for one reason or another, they joined the happy few—the suffragist adventurers. It may well be said that these realities are known to many men. For example, Lord Acton knew that liberty, in itself and for itself, is a proper end of political life. Nevertheless, there must be a woman's party, because during the last seventy years women have seen their own visions and dreamed their own dreams, and the substance of these dreams and visions, stuff light as air though it be, is needed now above all if we are to build Jerusalem in our land. Education, politics, economics, law, public administration, even religion, are still in their structure largely uni-sexual, and if they remain so, the fault will not only be men's. Women have their opportunity. If through intellectual and moral laziness, or inefficiency, they let it pass, the guilt of a great refusal will be theirs. But suffragists, feminists, or what not, need not, indeed should not, form a woman's party, if that means calling upon WOMAN to subscribe to a WOMAN'S programme or philosophy. There is no royal road to the job we have in hand. We have asked for responsibility, and now, when we can see into hell and into heaven as never before, we have got it with a vengeance. But burning charity and courage and humility can overcome and bring order out of chaos and light out of darkness. But shibboleths have only a limited use. While pressing on, we seem to have to go back to the beginning.

Let each woman, in close comradeship with other women and with men, be herself, speak her own thoughts, give of her own experience, learn to stand or fall by her own beliefs and actions. No longer "she for God in him," but he or she for God alone.

It is for such reasons as these that it seems good to see spring into being, not a woman's central bureaucracy, but hundreds and hundreds of independent Women's Citizen Associations, up and down the country, in hamlets, in boroughs, in towns.

Of women's associations already established in Liverpool or Manchester, or under the W.M.P. in London, we have already heard from abler pens, but they differ somewhat in plan from those spoken of here. The independent W.C.A.s would, in most cases, be formed somewhat as follows:—

(*a*) Some woman, for choice someone trained in the suffragist movement, would call together three or four others, not necessarily of her own way of thinking in all things, and would arrange with them to hold a meeting for women (*not* only parliamentary or municipal voters), choosing a subject for a short address and discussion. The subject should arouse interest, but should not suggest any political or religious bias. It might be: "What can the women of X do for the soldier's orphans after the War?" or "Who spends the rates and taxes, and how?"

(*b*) At the first meeting it should be made clear that there are many topics interesting to all the women in a place simply as citizens of that place, and that they are partly responsible for what happens. Tea should be provided, either at a small charge, or, temporarily, as the gift of some friends. Similar gatherings to be held weekly, say for two months, should be proposed, and the proposition voted upon by those present.

(*c*) Each week a topic for the following week should be chosen by vote. In nearly every case the new topic would arise quite naturally out of the discussion. The following gives a very rough idea of the kind of thing:—

2nd Week.—Half-Time Boys' and Girls' Education in general.
3rd Week.—Conditions of Child and Female Labour.
4th Week.—Social and Moral Standards.
5th Week.—Is the present Social Order the best possible?
6th Week.—The Russian Revolution.
7th Week.—Interdependence of Nations.
8th Week.—What are the good and bad points of our own country.
9th Week.—Municipal Legislation at home and abroad.
10th Week.—Local conditions, Sanitation, Museums, Free Libraries etc.
11th Week.—Leisure, Beauty, Gardens, Window Boxes.
12th Week.—Truth and Beauty in Religion, Church and Chapel Reunion.

Some of these topics are very dangerous, but that is where the fun comes in. Not stagnation and safety; but life and adventure. After a month or two the women will feel their feet, and will want to make things happen, and when things begin to happen because of them, they will know what freedom means. They can pass resolutions, and write to the papers, and go to deputations, and get window boxes, and start a little dramatic society, and make their own place a centre of light and leading, and go and see how the other people round about do it all.

In many cases the independent W.C.A's. will be started and fostered in their early stages by women of leisure, but all classes should join, and conditions should be such as suit the married working women—the leisured can look after themselves, and the married working women will soon provide for the women who go on to the labour market, and for men also to come into friendly touch.

(*d*) Very soon a committee should be elected, and it should make some simple financial basis—a small levy for tea, postage, &c. The Committee might remain in office for three or six months only at first, so that all should learn the bitter and the sweet of responsibility.

(*e*) Gradually it will appear desirable that members, as individuals only, should join other bodies, political, religious, literary, and should use their knowledge and experience in helping to govern them. Within the W.C.A. should be found the best of the religious, political, or literary women of the district, and it should guard as its most priceless possession the right of free speech, so that each and all may speak their mind and listen to others doing the same.

Thus all parties, all "movements," all religions would learn something of each other, with mutual courtesy and respect, and each woman would find whether she could or could not give a reason for the faith that was in her.

The associations need not be very large, and plenty of encouragement should be given to vigorous little groups who saw their way to a separate existence. The territorial basis need not be too strict so long as the place of meeting was handy. Above all, no patronage, no big names, no ornamental presidents, and, at least for some time to come, no central controlling board or uniform sets of rules.

There is much open to criticism in the above suggestions, but one justification there is for making them, viz., that a W.C.A. on somewhat similar lines in the East End is bursting with life and intelligence and initiative, and good fellowship.

As many little seedlings, self-sown or planted by the hand of the forester, grow up to make a wood, perhaps some oaks, some ashes, some birches, but all strong green trees, so a woman's party, not rivalling, but complementary to the other parties of men and women, may become visible in a year or two, drawing its strength from the soil of England.

A. Helen Ward.

ABOLITION OF THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE.

From October 15th, munition works' leaving certificates will be abolished, and workers will be free to leave for other war work after giving their employer a week's notice, unless a longer period is provided by the existing contract of service. The Trade Union Advisory Committee have issued an appeal, asking munition workers "not to change their employment without definite and substantial grounds, and to show that the output of munitions will not suffer by the abolition of 'leaving certificates.'" The appeal points out that if large numbers of workers suddenly leave their jobs and a big movement of workpeople takes place there is danger that the output of urgent munitions may be dislocated, and the men at the front will suffer.

The necessity for obtaining a leaving certificate before changing employment has caused great hardship in the past, in some cases, and has been a fertile source of discontent.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

A "COMMON CAUSE" HUT IN FRANCE.

Great as is the need of our women munition workers for a club where they can go for rest and recreation, the need of girls who are going out to work in France with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and other organisations, is greater still. It will increase, too, when the cold weather comes.

Already the days are drawing in. If the hut which we are hoping to build is to be ready to shelter British girls in France from the wet and cold in winter evenings, we must begin to build it at once.

So please send your donations TO-DAY.

Will not some of our Societies make a collection, as they so kindly did for our Coventry Hut?

This Hut is bringing rest and happiness to hundreds of girls every week, and it has recently received the honour of a visit from the Queen and Princess Mary, who were much interested and pleased with all they saw. The Queen admired our good collection of books and our rest-room with games and writing facilities. She was told that over 200 girls had been in the Club the previous evening. She asked what they did there principally, and on hearing that dancing was the chief attraction, she asked if mixed dancing was allowed. She was pleased to hear that we had men in once a week, and said she thought mixed dancing an excellent thing under supervision. The Queen shook hands with the workers, and spoke words of appreciation to each.

In order to arouse interest in our new venture,

Why not hold a drawing-room meeting?

We gratefully acknowledge the following sums :—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	172	12	6
Miss E. S. Chapman		2	0
Mrs. Pearce Serocold		10	0
The Misses Pagan		10	0
Miss Brailsford	5	0	0
Mrs. Julian Harley		10	0
Miss Clark	1	0	0
Miss Best	3	0	0
Mrs. G. C. Montefiore	2	2	0
Miss Farmer...	1	0	0
Mrs. Meade-King	1	0	0
Miss Norah Hill		5	0
Mrs. H. Enfield Dowson... ...	3	3	0
Mrs. Charlesworth...	1	0	0
Mrs. Saveruax		5	0
Mrs. Aubrey Dowson	5	0	0
Mrs. Robinson	5	0	0
Miss A. S. Pratt		10	0
Total	£202	9	6

CORRECTION.—The donation published in last week's issue as from Miss F. G. Glazier should have been *Miss Glasier*, £5.

Further donations should be sent to The Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

IN MEMORIAM.

LIEUT. THE HON. F. W. S. MCLAREN, R.F.C., M.P.

Second-Lieutenant the Hon. Francis W. S. McLaren, R.F.C., M.P. for the Spalding Division, who was killed in a flying accident at Montrose a short time ago, is a severe loss to the cause of women's suffrage. He was the younger son of Lord and Lady Aberconway, and was born in 1886. He was educated at Eton and Balliol, and entered Parliament as a Liberal in 1910. At the beginning of the war he joined the R.N.V.R., and served with the armoured cars in Belgium, Gallipoli, and Egypt. He afterwards joined the R.F.C. in the hope of getting more active service. Illness had delayed his training, but he was nearing the end of his advanced course when he met with the accident by which he died.

At the election at which Mr. McLaren was first elected to Parliament, he said, in reply to a question on Women's Suffrage: "I shall vote for any measure which gives the vote to women on the same terms as men, and will do my best to further that object."

This promise he carried out, consistently voting for women's suffrage in all the divisions after 1910. He also took part in the N.U.W.S.S. Albert Hall meeting in 1912.

The Executive Committee, at its last meeting, passed a vote of deep sympathy with Lady Aberconway.

A panel of eighty women speakers has been enrolled to work in connection with the Food Economy Campaign, which is to be carried on throughout the country. Mrs. Pember Reeves and Mrs. Peel are preparing a speaker's hand-book for use in the campaign.

There is a great opening in the Censor's office for women linguists, especially for those who know any of the more uncommon languages and dialects.

It seems likely that in the near future women will be widely employed in this country as wireless operators, as they are beginning to be in the United States and Canada. The school started early in the year by the Marconi Company for testing women's capacity for this work has had encouraging results, and some of the pupils have already been drafted to stations where they are doing good work.

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Nov. 2nd. "Work of the Police Court Mission." Mr. F. W. Barnett
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The National Union of Women Workers.

The National Union of Women Workers came into being as the result of several yearly conferences held, from 1888 onwards, in Aberdeen, Birmingham, Liverpool, and other large towns. In 1895 the Union assumed its present shape, although it was to undergo various constitutional changes during the coming years, and it is a sign of undiminished vitality that new developments, designed to bring the Union into harmony with the activities of enfranchised women, are now before its members. The membership of the Union is the membership of its sixty-one branches and of the 1,560 local societies affiliated to those branches, in addition to individual subscribers to headquarters, and the membership of 153 societies of national importance, affiliated to the centre, making a total membership of at least 1,000,000, and probably more.

It has been seen that there are two elements in this large Union of women; *i.e.*, members subscribing personally, and in many cases taking part in active work under the direction of the Central Office or of one of the branches, and members of societies affiliated to the Union, whose chief interest is likely to be found in the work of their own society. It is not surprising that some of these members regard the Union chiefly as a weapon to be used in the fight for the particular reform in which they are interested; others, more wisely, look upon it as a meeting place with other women interested in the well-being of the community, where one piece of social work may be co-ordinated with another, where a broader outlook may be gained, where a stimulating sense of social fellowship may be experienced. To keep the balance between the two elements in the Union can never be easy. At the present time, directly subscribing members have matters almost entirely in their own hands, having the lion's share of the representation on the Council, which elects the main body of the Executive, and, in addition, having direct representation on the Executive for each Branch of eighty members.

A decrease in the number of branch representatives and extra representation on the Executive for the affiliated societies is now proposed. It is certain that with the prospect of a large number of new branches being formed all over the country some decrease in direct representation is necessary in order to bring the Executive into reasonable dimensions, if with no other object. At the same time, it is probable that directly subscribing members will always claim a larger share of representation on the Council. One of the most difficult tasks of the Union in future years will be to adjust equitably these claims with those of the affiliated societies.

In spite of its unusual numbers, the Executive Committee gets through a large amount of work with remarkable expedition. This is due in part to the fact that so much business comes up to the Executive already prepared by the Sectional Committees, and in part to the branch representation being, more than anything else, in the nature of a link between the smaller elected Executive and the branches. Though very much criticised in principle, there is no doubt of the value in practice of this link between the work going on in London and the general activity of the Union in the country, it may be regarded as a vital factor in the life of the Union.

To complete the linking up of all parts of the Union there is also direct representation for the branches on the Sectional Committees as well as a certain amount of co-operation with the affiliated Societies. These Committees cover a fairly wide field, and deal in detail with such matters as come within their scope. Their function is to investigate, to criticise, and to advise, and through their branch members to educate the membership throughout the country. The work of these Committees is most responsible, and, indeed, forms the main work of the Union. They have won respect for the views of women, and have had considerable influence on the legislation of the past twenty years.

A change in the system of selection for membership of these Committees would increase their usefulness, and make them more representative of women's opinion.

Wherever the Union goes it creates an interest in public affairs among the women of the district which works out in varied ways. Its influence may be compared to the new impulse which the Suffrage movement has brought into many lives carried out into a wider field of work. Its message comes with special meaning to the average ordinary woman, too busy or too idle to care easily for new movements. To such a woman it may be the awakening of a new social consciousness to attend a conference of the N.U.W.W. And although the active workers in the Union are women of wide experience, the strength —even if it be also the limitation—of the Union, lies in the fact that it takes with it in its onward march a great body of average ordinary women.

Another source of strength lies in the number of societies affiliated to both Centre and Branches, and the varied interests they represent. A resolution passed at a branch meeting reflects the opinion of the most notable and active-minded women in that district, and the Council reflects in the same way the opinion of the organised women of the country, though perhaps not so fully as it might under a better scheme of representation. The resolutions passed by Council meetings do not at present form the active programme of the Executive for the year, though it may not work in opposition to the decisions of Council. These decisions must have received a majority of two thirds to be passed, and as a safeguard to the Executive taking action on matters with which the Council has not yet dealt, a majority of two-thirds is also required in such a case. This provision tends to stability, and prevents action being taken when there is not a real weight of opinion behind it.

The Union preserves a strict neutrality towards political matters, and while interesting itself in every question affecting the social, civil, moral, and religious welfare of the community, it has never concentrated exclusively on any one question. To take the suffrage question as an example, the Union has testified to its belief in the movement, and has done its share in the work by educating public opinion, through the work of the Legislation Sectional Committee, and the resolutions passed at Council meetings, reports of which filter back to the branches by the system of representation already described, but it has never taken up active suffrage propaganda, leaving that work to the societies organised for the purpose.

It is a tribute to human nature that the constant discussion of controversial subjects has never brought any real dissension into the Union. Members must feel that it is too big a thing to discard hastily, and are glad to have an opportunity for working under its banner wherever agreement is possible.

Rosamond Smith.

The State Endowment of Maternity. II.*

Is there anything in common between the Speenhamland system of outdoor relief and the proposed scheme of mothers' pensions? This is the first of the two definite questions to which we demanded an answer in the preceding section of this article; and, indeed, it is no mere academic speculation, for if it is possible to identify the principle of mothers' pensions with the principle of Speenhamland, it is open to enemies of the former to identify it with the disastrous and apparently inevitable results of the latter.

As a matter of fact, it is well nigh impossible to select any two persons or systems which have not got something in common; who, for example, would be surprised if it transpired that Lord Curzon and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald both loved peppermint creams, or saw eye to eye in their hatred of Italian Futurism? The question is, of course, whether that something is more or less fundamental than the qualities which divide. Now the two social systems which we are considering have at least this much in common; both involve the expenditure of public money upon necessitous persons. Both base the scale of that expenditure upon the size of the family, to that extent putting a premium upon the bearing of children at the expense of the State. Both concede such payments without the exaction of those usual forms of labour service whose payment, in general parlance, is given the title of wages. And here the resemblance seems to end.

So far, however, we have dealt with more or less superficial resemblances; with what might be called the machinery of the systems, the method of payment, and the calculation of what that payment shall be. It now remains to consider the principles at the back of those payments, the reasons why they are made at all, and the classes of people to whom they are made. It is here that we find some rather striking contrasts.

Now the Speenhamland system, as the circumstances of its birth demonstrate, was, first and last, wholly and exclusively a relief measure; whether to prevent the working classes from rioting, or whether to prevent them from starving, the Speenhamland system represents a bone flung to a hungry dog. There appears to be no evidence that it was regarded as a scientific cure for any of the evils of society, or that its wide implications and probable results were ever seriously considered at the time of its inception. It was panic relief, pure and simple, and its recipients knew it for what it was. The only qualification for such relief was unemployment or inadequate wages; no steps were taken to ensure that such unemployment was unavoidable and that relief was not being claimed as a first rather than as a last resort. It was because pauperism was the one condition of Speenhamland relief that Speenhamland relief pauperised, as it most undoubtedly did, causing large numbers of labourers to abandon their independent employment, large numbers of employers to dismiss independent workmen in favour of inefficient but subsidised pauper labourers.

Mothers' pensions happily provide some very striking contrasts of principle when compared with the desolation of Speenhamland. In the first place, where the Speenhamland system aimed at relieving the man, treating his wife and family merely as conditions of his pauperism, mothers' pensions aim at remunerating the woman for definite services to the State, and therefore, carry with them (or should carry, if properly administered) an atmosphere of honourable recognition. There are a number of people, no doubt, who will fulminate against any such scheme on the ground that it will pauperise the labouring poor, discourage family self-sufficiency, and undermine paternal responsibility, just as there are numbers of people who object to the further extension of free school feeding on the same grounds. It is, however, undoubtedly true, though it may sound paradoxical, that the more liberally and indiscriminately such benefits are given, the less will they tend to pauperise, in the accepted meaning of the term. If it is necessary to prove hideous destitution and the absence of independent means of subsistence in order to obtain a particular benefit, there is a certain amount of temptation to appear destitute, and abandon or conceal such independent means of subsistence. And the administration of benefits under such conditions can only be successfully accomplished in conjunction with a host of inspectors. Moreover, there is an important psychological fact to be reckoned with: namely, that benefits received by right or by virtue of definite service, have a very different effect upon people to benefits received as relief, by virtue of unfortunate conditions peculiar to the recipient. Nobody in these days regards free elementary education, the soldier's pay, the use of public parks, or the access to museums, as pauperising in the sense in which numbers of persons regard free school meals as pauperising.

The whole case can be illustrated by reference to a different grade of society. It is well known that there exist in most modern communities, large number of persons, very properly known as the idle rich, in possession of considerable unearned incomes produced by the exertions of the rest of society. The invidious term used above, be it noted, does not include those receivers of unearned income who genuinely regard it as a sort of prepayment by society for a life of voluntary hard work in the public interest; it includes merely those persons who regard the said income as their proper remuneration by society for the use of inherited capital, and who consider that any philanthropic labours on their part represent the gratuitous and praiseworthy sacrifice of their well earned ease. Rightly or wrongly (unfortunately, it is not the business of this article to determine which) these people regard unearned income as theirs by right; a present from nobody, least of all from the working classes. And it is impossible by the ordinary conversational standards of language to describe them as pauperised. They walk with their heads high. They see no necessity to parade before society the fact of their inability to obtain wealth in any other manner. There is no suggestion of the beggar's whine in their voices,

* See our issue of September 21st, page 280.

no cringing attitude of propitiation to their benefactors. When we examine their family life, we find equally satisfactorily moral conditions. Though the great majority of their wives possess independent incomes or marriage settlements sufficient to cover the bare physical needs of themselves and their children, we find no general relaxation of paternal responsibility, no general tendency for the home to disintegrate. Indeed, owing to the fact that husbands, wives, and children are not forced by economic circumstances to live in continuous and restricted proximity, it follows that wife-beating and other violent family disturbances are less frequent among the idle rich than among the labouring poor. On the whole, it may be surmised that the children who play in Kensington Gardens enjoy as much paternal interest, and will absorb as large a proportion of their fathers' material resources over and above his bare legal obligations, as the children who play in Shadwell Market, and whose family life is safeguarded by the economic dependence of the mother. Why, it may be asked, should the existence of married women's property have a totally different effect in Stepney to what it has in Mayfair?

To sum up the foregoing discussion then, it may be concluded that mothers' pensions differ profoundly from the Speenhamland system, in that the benefits of the latter were paid to the man as relief by virtue of special necessity, whereas the benefits of the former will be paid to the woman as her right by virtue of service rendered. It may be added that the latter was a blind measure of panic relief, whereas the former, whatever its effect upon the parents, is at least calculated to have a profound and cumulative effect upon the physique of the coming generation. But the preservation and accentuation of these differences depend to a large extent upon administration. If we place the standard of life upon which the mothers' pension depends, too low, we may tread dangerously near the invisible line which separates earnings from relief. If we connect its payment with the activities of relieving agencies we do the same thing. And this brings us to the answer to our second question: Should the administration of mothers' pensions be entrusted to the Poor Law authorities? The answer is in the negative; and in answering, it must be remembered that our Poor Law is not the old paternal Poor Law of the Elizabethan age, with its crude preventive notion of maintenance under training, it is the deterrent and essentially relieving Poor Law of 1834—of the revolt against Speenhamland; and everything that it touches bears an atmosphere of relief. It is this very atmosphere which we must at all costs blow away from mothers' pensions; for however humane and sympathetic the Poor Law may become, it must always be remembered that the State should not be relieving its working mothers in pity and sympathy, but paying its debt to them in honour and gratitude.

Mary Stocks.

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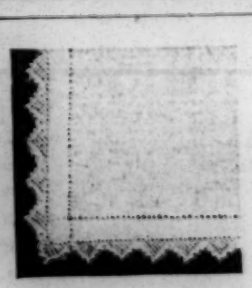

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Reviews.

The Making of Women: Oxford Essays in Feminism, by A. Maude Royden and others; edited by Victor Gollancz (George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.).

A book in which different chapters are written by different people is often unsatisfactory enough, but "The Making of Women" is a brilliant exception to this rule. The various problems approached are treated, as the title promises, from the feminist standpoint, but there is a complete absence of "making out a case" for women, and the book, dealing as it does with highly controversial subjects, is written in a style the reverse of controversial. Readers familiar with Miss Royden's and Miss Rathbone's work will not be surprised at the fearlessness with which their subjects are approached. For rather different reasons the handling of "The Remuneration of Women," and "Modern Love," both need courage. They are both prepared to face what they feel to be the truth and to teach it, even if it is not altogether palatable to certain sections of feminist opinion. The other chapters, though naturally written from a less authoritative standpoint, do not suffer severely from inevitable comparison with those of the better-known writers, and this is high praise. The sanity of the whole book is something to revel in, and it is undoubtedly one of the most serious and responsible contributions to an entrancing subject which has been written during the last few years. It is a book to read oneself and to give to one's friends—the converted and unconverted alike.

The National Food Economy League Handbook for Housewives [National Food Economy League, 3, Woodstock Street, W. 1. 2½d., post free.]

The 25th edition of this little pamphlet on "How to Save Money in War Time," just issued, brings the recipes which it contains into line with the special conditions now prevailing in regard to foodstuffs. Instructions have also been added on the proper cooking of maize products. These have been prepared with the help of French and American experts, and are for the first time included in an English publication.

Correspondence.

POLICE COURT VISITORS.

Madam,—Recent action in regard to women charged with moral offences has turned the attention of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene to the need of first hand evidence as to the procedure, methods of taking evidence, &c., employed in such cases. They are, therefore, organising a rota of police court visitors, believing that by this means valuable information will be gained, which may form a basis for definite recommendations as to improvements in the law and procedure. In connection with this rota, Mr. F. W. Barnett (P.C.M.), Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., Mr. Councillor Dawson, Mr. Theodore Dodd, J.P., Miss Alison Neilans, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence will give a series of public lectures on Police Court Procedure and the Laws as they affect Women, at 5.30 p.m. on Fridays, commencing on October 5th, at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, S.W. No tickets will be required. Full particulars can be obtained from the offices of this Association, 19, Tothill Street, S.W. 1.

Chrystal Macmillan
(Chairman Police Court Rota Sub-Committee).

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

Madam,—It is with indignation that I notice in your paper, The Common Cause, of August 28th, 1917, some of the clauses laid down in "The Criminal Law Amendment Bill" for the prosecution of young women and girls.

Before I offer any opinion of my own on the various clauses, I would say that this is the first time I have seen your paper, and being in sympathy with the work of Social Reform, also having worked under an organisation for the spread of the Gospel of Christ and social work in one of its branches, I very readily scanned this article in your paper on the subject of morals.

Personally, I would say in respect to the first and second clauses that this is a just measure, and destined to help protecting young women and girls of respectable parents. One of the outstanding facts of to-day in towns of almost any size is that a young girl cannot go along the street without being subjected to disgusting and filthy remarks from men whose morals are degenerated.

In respect to your Clause 3, detention is the proper thing, with medical treatment if necessary, and the common prostitute ought not to be asked if they will go where the State should send them, to an institute for a given period.

Clause 5.—This is an injustice against women in general, for the man is allowed to go "scot-free." There is a case in my mind at the present time, which I saw in a county newspaper, of an offence upon a respectable young girl, at a village a few miles from here. Now, Sir or Madame, I consider the time has come when the cat-o'-nine-tails should be used upon men of this character, and a good dose of this medicine, with a stiff sentence of two or three years, would make it a little safer upon the public streets of our large towns and cities.

This is none too severe a measure upon men who are of this type, and in respect to the type of women whose common object is to throw themselves in the way of men who are decent and respectable, I should say use the birch, the same as you would upon a bad boy, I venture to say it would also do some good.

(Private) A. G. H.

[We believe that our correspondent's indignation at the double standard of morals, condoned and even sanctioned by our law, is shared at the present time by large numbers of men. The question of the deterrent effect of punishment, like the question of divorce, is a deep and a wide one, but equality between the sexes in moral standards, in freedom and in duty, is a matter about which there can be no question in the eyes of The Common Cause.—Ed., C. C.]

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The meetings of the Executive Committee and of its many sub-committees, suspended during the last bit of August and the first bit of September, were resumed last week. On the motion of Mrs. Fawcett, the Executive Committee passed resolutions of deep sympathy with Lady Aberconway on the death of her son, with Mrs. Coombe Tennant on the death of her son, with Miss Chrystal Macmillan on the death of her brother, and with Miss Sheepshanks on the death of her brother.

Two valued members of the staff have left the office since the holidays began, to take up important work outside it. Miss Geraldine Cooke, we are glad to know, has not gone far from us. She has become Press and Appeal Secretary to the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, a sphere in which she will find further scope for the gifts and knowledge which have already proved so valuable in many different departments of N.U.W.S.S. work. She will be much missed as a speaker in the South, but the transference of her work from London to Edinburgh, and from this office to the office of the N.U.W.S.S. Hospitals, cannot be regarded as in any sense a parting. The N.U. Executive have already expressed their deep appreciation of her long and devoted service; it only remains for us to express our warm good wishes for her new work.

Miss Maybury, who has been working for five years in the Finance Department at Headquarters, has now taken up a very responsible post in the Food Control Office. We shall miss her very much, but we are glad to know that she is doing important national work for which she is specially well suited.

Treasurer's Notes.

THE LATE MISS GERTRUDE E. MOSELY.

Some ten months ago we referred with regret to the death of Miss G. E. Mosely, for many years an active member of the Tunbridge Wells Society of the National Union. Our readers will learn with sympathetic interest that this week a legacy of £25 was paid to the National Union by Miss Mosely's executors.

"To the day of my death I shall be a Suffragist," she wrote to the Secretary of the National Union, and this legacy comes to remind us that although she herself has passed away, the influence of such sympathy and enthusiasm as she showed cannot die. We therefore take her words and her life as the text of an appeal to our members and supporters to remember that the Cause to which Miss Mosely devoted so many years of her life is not yet won, and that the organisation for which she worked with such unflagging zeal still needs the loyal and generous support of its members.

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Mrs. Ritchie		10	6
Miss G. L. Moorcraft		2	6
Miss C. W. Western		10	0
Miss M. Marston		1	0
Miss H. Elizabeth Fryer ...		2	0
Miss Le Cocq		2	6
Miss H. I. Bryson		5	0
Miss Mary E. Phillips		5	0
Miss Agnes Garrett	2	2	0
Miss Emilie de Steiger (1916 and 1917)		5	0
Miss B. L. Hutchins		5	0
Hon. Lady Grey Egerton ...	5	0	0
Miss Dorothy Revell		1	0
Mrs. Eric Carter	1	1	0
Miss R. Mason		1	0
Miss F. H. Birley		5	0
Mrs. Cloudesley Brereton ...	1	1	0
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Romiley W.S.S.		10	6
Ashton-under-Lyne W.S.S. ...		6	6
Oiton W.S.S.		10	6
Shotley Bridge W.S.S.		5	0
Dornoch W.S.S.		5	0
Tynemouth W.S.S.	1	5	0
Alloa W.S.S.		5	0
Dollar W.S.S....		5	0
LEGACY.			
The late Miss Gertrude E. Mosely	25	0	0
	£1,425	12	0

WINTER

is fast approaching, and if the "Common Cause" Hut for France is to be erected in time to shelter the girls from the cold and wet and snow

your help towards making up the money is URGENTLY NEEDED.

£202 9s. 6d. has already been sent in

by our readers of "The Common Cause," but

£697 10s. 6d. is still needed

to complete the total of £900 required to build, equip and maintain the hut for one year.

When the brave girls of the Women's Auxiliary Army arrive in France, the happiest welcome they can have is at a Y.W.C.A. hut, where they can get rest and refreshment and the companionship of their own countrywomen. Would you not like to help towards providing such a hut, which is very urgently needed?

A "Common Cause" HUT for FRANCE.

The Young Women's Christian Association have asked the Editor of "THE COMMON CAUSE" to provide one of these huts, to be paid for and supported entirely by readers of this journal, and to be called "THE COMMON CAUSE" Hut.

Please send your donation NOW.

Y.W.C.A

The total amount asked for is £900, which is made up as follows:—
£500 TO PROVIDE THE HUT.
£200 TO EQUIP IT.
£200 TO MAINTAIN IT FOR 1 YEAR.
£900 (Total)

Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be addressed to the Editor of "THE COMMON CAUSE," 14, *Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.*

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
14, Gt. Smith St., Westminster, S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

I enclose my "bit" towards "The Common Cause" Hut for our Girls in France, viz.: _____

wishing it every success.

Signed _____

Address _____

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

LINGERIE & BLOUSE WEEK

Commences on Monday, Oct. 1, at

Peter Robinson's

Exhibit and Special Offer of high-class Paris Underclothing, Blouses and Jersey Coats.

ON Monday next and during the Week we shall hold our annual Exhibition of new season's goods in the Underclothing and Blouse Departments. Thousands of items of exquisite Lingerie—innumerable Blouses in new, useful and becoming styles, also Blouse-coats and Jersey Coats, have been provided for our customers' inspection next week. The chef d'œuvre of the week, however, will be the special and unsurpassable VALUES offered in these departments—they will prove irresistible.

Peter Robinson L[D.]

Oxford Street, W.1

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Telephone: Museum 1152-3.

Telegrams: "Corybrosim, London."

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	12,069	10	8
Miss Lucy Mason (monthly donation)	1	0	0
Hull W.S.S. (14th monthly collection)	2	5	6
Mrs. Charles Tiffany (two months)	10	8	4
Miss Edith Terry	10	0	
Miss I. M. Hervey,...	2	0	0
	£12,095	14	6

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

Literature Department.

The Making of Women.—A collection of essays by such well-known contributors as Miss Maude Royden, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Elinor Burns and others, which is reviewed in our columns this week, may now be obtained from the Literature Department. Price 4s. 6d., postage 3d.

The Amended Clauses of the Representation of the People Bill (price 2d., postage ½d.) is now in stock.

Suffragists will be interested in a stencilled brochure giving the history of the Women's Suffrage movement since the outbreak of war. It is divided into two parts—the first dealing with the Parliamentary History of Women's Suffrage, the second with its history outside Parliament. Each part may be purchased for 6d., postage 2½d. Cost and postage, both parts, 1s. 3d.

The Literature Department will be glad to supply any of the books reviewed in The Common Cause.

TRAINING FOR VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WORKERS.

The part-time course of training for voluntary social workers initiated by the Provisional Committee for Social Service (about which we published an article in our issue of August 31st) is now about to begin. Professor Berwick will give an inaugural lecture on "the Future of Social Training," at the London School of Economics, on Friday, October 5th, at 5 p.m. This will be open to the public without fee. Part-time students may take the course either at the Ratan Tata Department of Social Science and Administration, London School of Economics, Clare Market, Portugal Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2, or at Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, N.W. 1. It consists of lectures, classes, and practical work. The fee is £2 2s. 0d. per term, or £5 5s. 0d. for the whole course (from October to June). Enquiries should be made from Miss Low, 11, Marble Arch, W. 1.

We believe that many suffragists who hope to turn their energies to other social problems when the vote is won will find this training extremely valuable. Since the war we have most of us become, in one sense or another social workers, and too many of us are still untrained.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Local Government Register in Ireland and the Representation of the People Bill.

The following letter has been sent by the Joint Standing Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies to the Trades Councils of Dublin, Cork, and Belfast. Letters to the same effect have also been sent to Sir John Lonsdale, M.P., Chairman Ulster Unionist Party; Mr. John Redmond, M.P.; Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., M.P.; and Mr. H. T. Barrie, M.P., the last-named being the only Irish Member to raise the question in the House of Commons.

"37, Ailesbury Road, Dublin.
September 22nd.

"To the Secretary of the Trades Council.

"Dear Sir—I have been instructed by the Joint Standing Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies, representing the Belfast Suffrage Society, the Church League for Woman Suffrage, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Suffrage Association, the Irish Catholic Women's Suffrage Association, the Irishwomen's Reform League, and The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, to draw your attention to the qualification for the municipal franchise, established under Clause 3, sub-section (a) of the Representation of the People Bill. This section deprives men and women occupying furnished rooms, of their municipal vote, and thus a large number of persons living in Ireland will be disfranchised and the municipal electorate rendered less democratic. A grave injustice to Ireland would be involved, since in the case of Scotland, a promise has been given by the Government that the municipal qualification shall remain unaltered. The clause will also deprive a large number of Irishwomen of the Parliamentary vote, which is given on the basis of the Local Government register.

"Trusting you will bring these facts to the notice of the Trades Council.—Yours faithfully,

"Mary L. Gwynn, Hon. Sec., Joint Standing Committee."

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital for Home and Foreign Service.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to September 13th, 1917	240,487	15	0
Further donations received to September 20th, 1917:—			
"In Memoriam," F. L.	10	0	
*Clerks, Claims and Record Office, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith, to continue "The Claims and Record Office, Kew," bed (Villers-Cotteret) (3rd instal.)	6	12	

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

	£	s.	d.
*Collected by Miss A. M. Williamson, to continue "September" bed (Royaumont) (5th instal.)	25	0	0
J. Maitland Thomson	3	0	0
*Bristol W.S.S., per Mrs. Hicks, Hon. Treas. (July and Aug. donations): G. Bryay, Esq. (4s.), Mrs. Cross (2s.), Mrs. Hicks (2s.), Miss M. Leonard (2s.), Mrs. Talbot (2s.), Mrs. Taylor (2s.)...		14	0
*Huddersfield W.S.S., per Miss E. Harrop, Hon. Treas.: £25 for upkeep of "Emily Frances Siddon" bed, Corsica (5th donation); £25 for General Funds. Part proceeds of a Lamp Day held on Sept. 8th for the S.W.H. and the Millicent Garrett Fawcett Russian Hospital... ...	50	0	0
Bishopshire Horticultural Soc., per Andrew Mitchell, Esq. ...	2	0	0
*B.W.T.A., Edinburgh, per Miss Lockhart, Hon. Treas., for "B.W.T.A." Motor Ambulance, Royaumont	25	0	0
Miss W. B. Crisp		3	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. A. Barclay & Sons, Ltd. (£7 8s. 8d.), Riccarton Institute Bible Class, per R. Oliver, Esq. (10s.)	7	18	8
*Staff of Kinnoull School, per Miss E. W. R. Alison, Hon. Treas. Perth W.S.S.		12	2
Collection at Lecture by Dr. Mary Phillips, Corsica, per Miss Gordon	10	0	0
G. R. S....		1	6
Per W. Armand, Esq.: Collected during Flag Day on Sept. 15th in Dollar and District	30	5	0
*Proceeds of Sale of Work held by a few Bo'ness Academy Pupils, in aid of "Bo'ness Academy" bed, Royaumont, per Miss Margaret Renton ...	9	0	0
*Manchester and Federation Field Hospital Unit, Corsica, per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Sec., per D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., Hon. Treas. ...	110	0	0
W. Addis Miller, Esq.		5	0
*A few Members of the Lytham and St. Anne's Golf Club, per R. Campbell, Esq., to continue "Fisher's Hotel" bed, Salonica (5th instal.) ...	12	10	0
Mrs. Bailey (10s. for the new Canteens in France)	1	10	0
*Glasgow Academy, per E. Temple, Esq., Headmaster ("A Weekly Collection for War Funds")	2	11	0
*S.W.H. National Flag Day, 1st instal., per Miss Carphin, Hon. Treas. Flag Day Fund, S.W.H.	2,000	0	0
*Per Mrs. Wood: *Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Weir, to continue "Kilallan" bed for 2nd year (£50); *Mrs. T. Hall Barr, Corsica (£5 5s.), *Mrs. Maitland (£1), *Miss M. Thomson (10s.)	56	15	0
Biggar Farmers' Club Gift Sale, per Miss Livingstone, County Sec. Lanarkshire District of the British Red Cross (Girton and Newnham Unit)	159	7	6
*Herbert B. Law, Esq. (Serbia)	5	5	0
	£245,006	15	6

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"The Claims and Record Office, Kew" (Villers-Cotteret, further 3 months)...	The Clerks in the Claims and Record Office, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith.
"September" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Collected by Miss A. M. Williamson, Edinburgh.
"Emily Frances Siddon" (Corsica, further 6 months)	Huddersfield W.S.S., per Miss E. Harrop, Hon. Treas.
"Fisher's Hotel" (Salonica, further 3 months)	A few Members of the Lytham and St. Anne's Golf Club, per R. Campbell, Esq.
"Kilallan" (further 1 year) ...	Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Weir, per Mrs. Wood, Kilmacolm.

Items of Interest.

Miss Alice Sergeant has been appointed to the Indian Educational Service as Inspectress of Schools in Madras.

Fourteen more women have been appointed in Australia as Justices of the Peace.

The women woolcombers of Bradford have been granted an advance of 11s. a week, inclusive of a previous bonus, now converted into wages.

JAM MAKERS' WAGES RAISED.—The Sugar, Confectionery, and Food Preserving Trade Board has decided to raise the minimum time-rate for female workers over eighteen years of age, from 16s. 3d. to 19s. 6d. per week of fifty-two hours. This higher rate is still very low, in proportion to the present cost of living, and it would be interesting to know how many women will earn more than the minimum fixed. Unfortunately, the tendency usually is for a minimum wage to become a standard wage.

WOMEN AS SPECIAL CONSTABLES.—Nine women were sworn in at the Guildhall on September 20th, before Alderman Sir Joseph Savory, to act as police constables on the premises of the Great Eastern Railway. They have been in training for some months, and will replace the company's policemen who have been called up for military service.

A WOMAN COMPANY DIRECTOR.—At the annual meeting of Boot's Cash Chemists Limited, Lady Boot was appointed a director of the Company. She has been responsible for many years for the development of the toilet and gifts branches of the business, and has had a commercial experience which few women have a chance to obtain. Sir Jesse Boot considers that as the staff of the Company is recruited more and more from women, there should be a woman member on the board, with special knowledge of their needs and ideas.

TWO YEARS OF CANTEEN WORK.—Between 600 and 700 voluntary workers who have helped Lady Henry Grosvenor in the canteens at the Woolwich Arsenal, assembled on Thursday of last week to celebrate the second anniversary of the beginning of their work. Badges were distributed by Princess Helena Victoria, the hundred women who had been longest at the work receiving them first. Most of these had not missed any of their duties during the two years since the scheme was started.

WEST END CLUB FOR GIRLS.—A Blue Triangle Club for Girls at 5, Wardour Street, Leicester Square, has been opened by the Y.W.C.A. Excellent lunches, teas, and suppers for 1s. or less can be obtained in the restaurant. The club rooms include a lounge, rest room, and bathroom. There are books, papers, and a piano, and girls may invite friends on social nights.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

SHEFFIELD.

Our Autumn Session was opened by a very successful American Tea and Meeting held, by kind permission of our President, at Ecclesall Grange, on September 21st. Brief addresses on "Woman's New Responsibilities" were given by Mrs. Leathes and Mrs. Annot Robinson, and much interest was aroused in the forthcoming Conference which is being organised by a joint Committee of Suffrage and other bodies concerned with women's interests. The sale realised over £6.

Other small meetings are being arranged for in different districts of the city.

Forthcoming Meetings.

SEPTEMBER 28.

Barnsley—Miners' Hall—Lantern Lecture by the Hon. Evelina Haverfield 8 p.m.

Bristol—Meeting at 37, Beaufort-road—Speaker, the Hon. Evelina Haverfield—Chair Miss J. Johnson 3.30 p.m.

OCTOBER 3.

Bristol—Meeting at 40, Park-street—Speaker, the Hon. Evelina Haverfield—Chair, Mrs. S. Kemp, B.A. 8 p.m.

OCTOBER 4.

Holloway Sisterhood—Speaker, Mrs. Bertram

OCTOBER 10.

Brixton—2, St. John's-road—Speaker, Mrs. Corbett Fisher—Hostess, Miss Downs 3.30 p.m.

Coming Events.

Miss Maude Royden will preach at the City Temple on Sunday evening, September 30th. She will also preach in the afternoon.

A course of lectures on "some of the Newer Ideals in Education" will be held at 11, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, on Tuesday evenings during October, November, and December.

A very interesting series of lectures on social and economic questions has been arranged for the autumn session of the London School of Economics and Political Science, Clare Market, Portugal Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

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James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd. MANCHESTER.

The seventh annual Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts, organised by *The Englishwoman*, will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from November 14th to 24th.

A series of Church Services, with addresses by Miss A. Maude Royden, will be held on Wednesdays, October 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, at 6.30 p.m., in the Conference Hall, Central Buildings, Westminster.

A conference will be held at Caxton Hall on November 1st, under the auspices of the Women's Industrial Council, to consider the question of the "pocket-money" worker, whose presence after the war may form a serious menace to women who are obliged to earn their living. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Women's Industrial Council, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C. 2.

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40	3 0	8 6	16 0

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ASSOCIATION OF ADVERTISING WOMEN.—Meeting, Oct. 8th, Connaught Rooms, Gt. Queen-st., W.C., 8 p.m. Mr. Godley (of the *Daily Mirror*) on "Thirty Years in Fleet-st." All business women cordially invited; applications for membership should be addressed to the Secretary, A.A.W., 19, Buckingham-st., Strand, W.C.

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION.—Lectures, 1917-1918. At Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Woman and Revolution. Two Centuries of European History. With special reference to economic problems. Lecturer: Margaret Hodge. First lecture, Monday, October 1st, at 3 p.m. Tickets for Part I. (ten lectures), 5s.—From the Lecture Secretary, Minerva Café.

MISS A. MAUDE ROYDEN will preach at a series of Church Services, to be held on Wednesdays, October 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, at 6.30 p.m., in the Conference Hall, Central Buildings, Westminster. The Services are open to all.

TO ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKERS.

There are still a few vacant Stalls for "THE ENGLISHWOMAN" EXHIBITION, to be held in November, at the Central Hall, Westminster.—For particulars, apply to the Secretary, 11, Haymarket, S.W.1.

FOR WAR WORK.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.—Urgently Wanted, young voluntary worker as door-keeper and messenger at the offices, 66, Victoria-st. Hours, 11—5 (except Saturdays, 11—1). No one under 16 should apply.

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Churchwomen, abstainers, prepared to pay their own expenses. A splendid sphere for women keen on helping our fighting men.

Apply VOLUNTARY HELPERS DEPARTMENT, 55, Bryanston Street, London, W. 1.

[Continued on page 296

Continued from page 295

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WANTED.

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An entirely new opening for Women Workers; whole or part time. Excellent prospects.

For particulars apply Miss Rochford, "Common Cause" Office, 14, Great Smith Street.

WOULD a young lady, capable and willing, like to assist in work of bright, nice, non-basement house in country, near Croydon; boy daily for rough work; three in family; plain cooking; salary.—Housekeeper, Chadderton, Northwood, Middlesex.

ADOPTION.

HAPPY Country Home offered to little girl of three years or upwards, child of cultivated people preferred.—Box 7,004, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training. Vegetable, fruit and flower culture. Healthy outdoor life. Individual consideration. Long or short courses; from 60 gns. per annum. Gardening year begins September 21st.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

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LESSONS and classes for study of French at 7, Old Bond-street, W., by lady with many years' experience in Paris; terms moderate.—Apply by letter to Mme. Bolton, Spring Grove House, Isleworth, W.

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"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 5, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 8049.

£50 PRIZE.—Send postage (twopence) for particulars and copy of "How to Make Money With Your Pen" (learn to earn by writing) to Craven Press, 32, Craven-st., Strand, London.

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